29th year OF PUBLICATION

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Art 370 Move Curbed Separatism: Shah

Claims no local youth in Kashmir now involved in terrorism

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Union Home Minister Amit Shah on Saturday said the abrogation of Article 370 in 2019 had ended separatist sentiments among Kashmiri youth, claiming that not a single local youth in Kashmir Valley was now involved in terrorism after 35 years of violence and unrest.

"After over 35 years of violence, not a single local youth of Kashmir Valley is now involved in terrorism," Shah said while addressing law enforcers at the Police Training Centre (PTC) at Banderdewa, near Itanagar, in Arunachal Pradesh.

Recalling the turbulent 1990s, when terrorism was at its peak, Shah said the situation had undergone a significant transformation following the abrogation of Article 370.

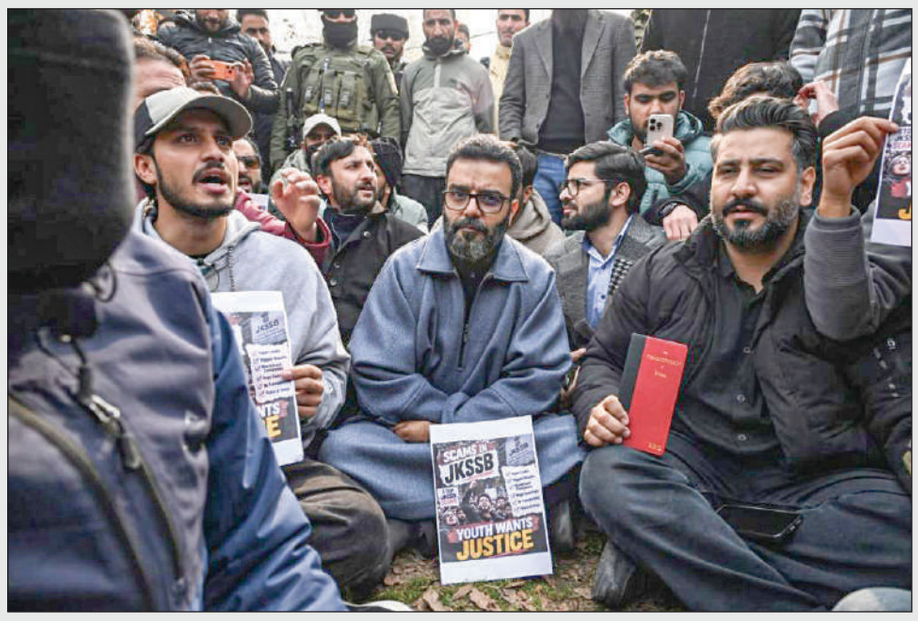
He said the change was not merely the result of eliminating terrorists but also of ending the atmosphere of discrimination and alienation among the younger generation.

Shah was addressing the gathering during the presentation of the President's Police Colour to the Arunachal Pradesh Police, describing the recognition as a moment of pride for the

Recruitment Controversy Escalates, Ruhullah Begins Indefinite Sit-In

Former MP demands suspension of upcoming JKSSB exams; Mufti and Mirwaiz demand probe into alleged irregularities

KO Web Desk



Srinagar: Former Lok Sabha MP Aga Syed Ruhullah Mehdi on Saturday began an indefinite sit-in with students protesting alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations conducted by the Jammu and Kashmir Services Selection Board (JKSSB), escalating pressure on the government amid growing calls for accountability and a transparent probe.

A group of students assembled at Sher-e-Kashmir Park in Srinagar to protest alleged malpractices in the conduct of JKSSB examinations. Mehdi, who recently resigned from the National Conference, joined the protest and said he was not leading it.

"This is the students' sit-in for their demands, for a genuine issue, and for their genuine aspirations. I am joining them; they aren't joining me," he told reporters.

Mehdi demanded suspension of upcoming JKSSB examinations until allegations of cheating and irregularities were investigated, questioning the board's claim that a recent examination had been conducted smoothly despite police action against an alleged cheating network.

"The JKSSB should postpone all future examinations. After a proper investigation, those involved should be punished and a deterrent established. Only then should the examinations be conducted," he said.

Responding to the board's position on the examination, Mehdi said reported arrests and the dismantling of suspected cheating networks required an explanation from the authorities.

"If the police have busted cheating networks, then how can the JKSSB say the examination was conducted smoothly? Either the police action is wrong or the board's statement is wrong," he said.

He alleged that technology was being used to facilitate cheating and that repeated recruitment controversies over the past three to four years had undermined confidence in the system.

"There have been many scams, but no deterrence has been established. This shows complacency and a lack of serious effort to stop such practices," he said.

Criticising the government, Mehdi said the future of students was not a priority for those in power, alleging that their personal priorities had taken precedence over the concerns of young people.

"What should have happened is that our elected government, our elected class, should have been doing this work. These young people shouldn't have had to leave their studies and their daily responsibilities to come out here," he said.

"The future of the youth, the future of | More on P6

70.03% Turnout In Ladakh Panchayat Polls

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: Ladakh recorded a voter turnout of 70.03 per cent in the Panchayat elections and 52.4 per cent in the Municipal Council polls on Saturday, as voters across the Union Territory participated in the first local-body elections since its formation in 2019.

The polling witnessed participation from people across age groups and sections of society, including first-time voters, women, senior citizens and monks.

Despite sub-zero temperatures in several areas and geographical challenges in remote settlements, voters turned up at polling stations to elect their representatives to grassroots institutions, officials said.

Lieutenant Governor Vinai Kumar Saxena described the day as historic for the Union Territory and expressed gratitude to people for their enthusiastic participation.

"Heartfelt gratitude to the resilient people of the Union Territory of Ladakh for coming out in overwhelming numbers to cast their votes in the Panchayat and Municipal elections. Today's voter turnout, with 73.60 per cent polling for Panch and 70.03 per cent for Sarpanch, marks an improvement over the overall voter turnout of 67.8 per cent recorded in the 2018 Panchayat elections, | More on P6

Two Food Dept Employees Sacked Over NDPS Cases

KO Web Desk

Srinagar: The Jammu and Kashmir Government has dismissed two employees of the Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs (FCS&CA) Department over their alleged involvement in Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) cases, officials said.

The dismissal orders were issued separately by the Director, Food, Civil Supplies and Consumer Affairs Department, Kashmir.

The employees dismissed from service have been identified as Shabir Ahmad Khan and Arshad Fayaz, both of whom were working as assistant storekeeper-cum-clerks in the department, officials said.

Their dismissal was ordered under Rule 30 (VIII) of the Jammu and Kashmir Civil Services (Classification, Control and | More on P6

HC Pulls Up Authorities Over Women's Safety In Public Transport

Agencies



Srinagar: Flagging gaps in the enforcement of government directions meant to ensure safer travel for women commuters, the High Court of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh has pulled up the authorities over safety of females using public transport.

A Division Bench comprising Chief Justice Dr Pushpendra Singh Bhati and Justice Rahul Bharti while hearing a public interest litigation (PIL), "Reserved seats for women and persons with disabilities in public transport exist more on paper rather than on the roads"

The PIL filed by Advocate Monisa Manzoor Mir has raised concerns over the safety and security of women travelling in buses, matadors and other public transport vehicles without assurance of reserved seating.

The High Court noted that even the Srinagar Traffic Police Chief had expressed difficulty in enforcing the directives, stating that their implementation required executive decisions, statutory notifications or departmental directions from the competent authorities.

The High Court also took note of government directions requiring Regional Transport Officers (RTOs) and Assistant Regional Transport Officers (ARTOs) to ensure strict implementation of seat reservation for women | More on P6

Education Dept Weighs Winter Vacation For Junior Classes

Minister vows action against unauthorised school charges

Observer News Service



AI generated illustration

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir Education Minister Shameema Firdous on Saturday said the government was considering winter vacations for students from nursery to Class 5 in Kashmir in view of the prevailing cold conditions.

Speaking to reporters at the National Conference headquarters in Srinagar, Firdous said a decision on winter vacations for junior classes would be taken after assessing weather conditions and their impact on children's health.

"We are considering the matter for children from nursery to Class 5 and will take a decision accordingly," she said.

Referring to the difficulties faced by children attending schools during cold mornings, the minister said the government was mindful of health concerns, including throat and chest infections, cough and fever among young students.

However, she did not specify a date for the commencement of winter vacations.

Amid complaints against private schools over additional charges and donations, Firdous said | More on P6

J&K To Remain Dry Till Nov-End: MeT

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Jammu and Kashmir is likely to witness largely dry weather conditions till the end of November, with minimum temperatures expected to drop by 1-2 degrees Celsius across the region in the coming days, the Meteorological Centre Srinagar said.

According to the MeT department's forecast, weather is likely to remain generally dry from November 21 to 30, while partly to generally cloudy conditions are expected between December 1 and 3.

The department's seven-day forecast, covering November 21 to 27, also indicates dry weather across Kashmir and Jammu divisions, with no weather warnings issued for either division during the period.

Minimum temperatures are likely to fall by 1-2 degrees Celsius towards | More on P6

Mock Drill Simulates Town Lockdown In Bandipora

Press Trust Of India

Srinagar: Security forces conducted a mock drill simulating a terror incident and a complete town lockdown on Saturday, assessing security preparedness in Jammu and Kashmir's Bandipora district, police said.

As part of its ongoing efforts to strengthen security preparedness and ensure an effective response to any unforeseen security challenge, police in Bandipora, in coordination with other security agencies, conducted a mock drill simulating a terror incident followed by a complete lockdown of Bandipora Town, a police spokesman said.

He said the exercise witnessed the participation of Bandipora Police, Special Operations Group (SOG), the Army's 14 RR, 3rd Battalion CRPF, a bomb squad, an anti-sabotage team, the medical team of Bandipora Police and fire and emergency services.

During the exercise, all entry and exit routes of Bandipora Town were sealed and a complete lockdown scenario was simulated to assess the preparedness, operational coordination and response capabilities of the participating forces in dealing with a potential terror-related situation, the spokesman said.

He said the mock drill was conducted, with particular emphasis on swift mobilisation, inter-agency coordination, effective | More on P6

HC Assigns Additional Charge Of 4 Courts, Shifts 7 Civil Judges

KO Correspondent



Srinagar: The High Court of J&K and Ladakh on Saturday assigned additional charge of four courts to judicial officers and ordered transfers and postings of seven Civil Judges (Junior Division) across Jammu and Kashmir in the interest of administration.

As per an order issued by the Registrar General M K Sharma, Presiding Officer, Fast Track Court, Budgam has been assigned the additional charge of the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Budgam.

The additional charge of Additional District and Sessions Judge, Pulwama, as well as Special Judge, NDPS, Pulwama has been assigned to the Principal District and Sessions Judge, Pulwama while Special Judge, NDPS, Srinagar has been given the additional charge of the court of Additional Sessions Judge (TADA/POTA), Srinagar.

The High Court has further ordered that Shri Chemit Yurgyal, formerly Secretary, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA), Kargil, and presently posted as Secretary DLSA, Leh, shall continue to hold the additional charge assigned to him under High Court Order No. 1620 of 2026/RG dated October 15, 2026. The | More on P6

STIPEND ROW

Doctors' Agitation Gains Ground, More Hospitals To Join

Observer News Service



Srinagar: The agitation by postgraduate (PG) and senior resident doctors demanding stipend enhancement, parity with other States and Union Territories and maternity leave benefits gained momentum across Jammu and Kashmir on Friday, with doctors from more institutions scheduled to join the protest from November 23.

The protest entered its second consecutive day at Government Medical College (GMC) Srinagar and third day at GMC Jammu, while doctors from other institutions extended solidarity | More on P6

J&K Approves Leave Stipends, AIMSA Presses For Pay Parity

The Jammu and Kashmir Government has allowed postgraduate students, senior residents, tutors and other medical trainees in Government Medical Colleges across the Union Territory to draw stipends during duly sanctioned maternity and paternity leave. According to an order, students pursuing postgraduate and super-specialty programmes, | More on P6

Scholarships This Week

Kashmir Observer in association with Buddy4Study.com presents scholarships available for the meritorious students of Jammu and Kashmir

Scholarship Name 1: Mahindra Saarthi Abhiyaan 2026-27

Description: The Mahindra Saarthi Abhiyaan 2026-27, an initiative by Mahindra & Mahindra Limited, supports the educational aspirations of daughters of truck drivers across India. The scholarship provides financial assistance to eligible girls studying in Class 11, Class 12, Graduation, and Post-Graduation, helping them continue their education despite financial challenges.
Eligibility: Open to girls studying in Class 11, Class 12, Graduation, or Post-Graduation.
Applicants must be daughters/wards of truck drivers.
Students from across India are eligible to apply.
Children of Buddy4Study or Mahindra & Mahindra employees are not eligible.
Note: If the latest semester results are unavailable, the previous odd-semester results may be considered for selection.
Prizes & Rewards: INR 10,000 as a fixed scholarship award for each selected scholar.
Last Date to Apply: 30-11-2026
Application mode: Online Application Only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/MHSA4
QRCode: https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/mahindra-saarthi-abhiyaan-2026-271793670927.png

Scholarship Name 2: SDEF India Scholarship Program 2026-27

Description: The SDEF India Scholarship Program 2026-27, an initiative of the Swami Dayanand Education Foundation (SDEF), supports academically meritorious students from financially constrained families who are beginning professional undergraduate courses in India. Selected students can receive up to INR 50,000 per academic year,



renewable for up to four years, subject to annual review and continued eligibility.

Eligibility: Open to students admitted to the first year of a full-time eligible professional undergraduate programme in 2026-27.
The applicant's annual family income must not exceed INR 12 lakh from all sources.
Applicants should not have taken a drop or gap year after Class 12.
Students must meet the applicable academic, entrance examination and category-wise eligibility criteria for their course.
Eligible programmes include B.Tech./B.E., MBBS, BDS, and B.Arch.
Applicants must be willing to participate in further assessment and selection stages, if shortlisted.
Prizes & Rewards: Up to INR 50,000 per academic year, renewable for up to four years, subject to annual review and continued eligibility. The scholarship amount is disbursed directly to the student's college or university towards approved educational expenses.
Last Date to Apply: 30-11-2026
Application mode: Online Application Only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/SDEF1
QR Code: https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/sdef-india-scholarship-program-2026-271793670884.png

Scholarship Name 3: WINGS — Women INspiring Growth in STEM Scholarship Program

Description: IIT Bombay's Alumnus Bharat Desai and his wife, Neerja Sethi, have launched an initiative at IIT Bombay to encourage women in STEM, named WINGS — Women INspiring Growth in STEM Scholarship Program. This initiative aims to break financial barriers and champion women's education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.
Eligibility: For female students planning to pursue an undergraduate STEM course at IIT Bombay (2027-28 Session).
Students not availing any other government tuition grant or scholarship.
The scholarship will continue for students maintaining a 6.0 CPI or higher.
Prizes & Rewards: The scholarship covers tuition fees (Rs 2 lakhs per annum) for women students meeting the above eligibility criteria.
Last Date to Apply: 30-11-2026
Application mode: Online Application Only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/WINGS2
QR Code: https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/wings-women-inspiring-growth-in-stem-scholarship-program1791265653.png

Scholarship Name 4: VYLOR Agritech Scholarship Program FY 2026–27

Description: The Vylor Agritech Scholarship Program FY 2026–27 provides financial support to students pursuing UG, PG, or PhD courses in Agriculture and allied streams at eligible institutions. Selected students receive up to INR 35,000 per year to support their education and career growth in agriculture.
Eligibility: Students enrolled in any year of UG, PG, or PhD in Agriculture (and allied courses) at government colleges, including IITs, NITs, IISc, ICAR-recognized colleges, and State Agricultural Universities, are eligible.
The applicant's annual family/parental income from all sources must not exceed INR 6,00,000.
Children of employees of Vylor and Buddy4Study are not eligible to apply.
Prizes & Rewards: INR 25,000 for undergraduate courses per year.
INR 35,000 for postgraduate and PhD programmes per year.
Last Date to Apply: 30-11-2026
Application mode: Online Application Only
Short Url: www.b4s.in/observer/VASP1
QR Code: https://dle9eg0t055l3.cloudfront.net/static/images/scho-media/vylor-agritech-scholarship-program-fy-2026-271793617190.png

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MANZOOR NEWS AGENCY	NORPORA
JAVAID NEWS AGENCY	AWANTIPORA
LONE NEW/ADVT AGENCY	RATNIPORA, PULWAMA
BOOZE NEWS AGNECY	AWANTIPORA
3 WAY TRAL NEWS AGENCY	TRAL
SYED MAQBOOL NEWS AGNECY	TRAL
DAR NEWS AGENCY	PULWAMA
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FOR ANY QUERY, CALL CIRCULATION DEPTT. : 0194-2502327

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DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & FARMERS WELAFRE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF AGRICULTURE OFFICER, DISTRICT BUDGAM

PUBLIC NOTICE

Sub.: **Extension in last date of filling of offline application form** for engagement as Krishi Udyami (KU)/Agriculture Entrepreneur in different Panchayats of District Budgam under HADP Phase-II issued vide **Notification No. 10 of 2026-27 dated 11-11-2026.**

Whereas, this Office invited applications from eligible candidates vide Advertisement Notice No. 10 of 2026-27 dated 11-11-2026 for the purpose specified in the aforementioned advertisement; and

Whereas, the last date for submission of applications along with all requisite documents was fixed as **18-11-2026**; and

Whereas, this Office has received a poor response to the aforesaid advertisement, the matter has been examined and it has been decided to extend the last date for submission of applications in order to provide an additional opportunity to eligible candidates to apply.

Now, therefore, in view of the above, the last date for submission of applications pursuant to Advertisement Notice No. 10 of 2026-27 dated 11-11-2026, endorsed vide No. **CAOB/Plan/2026-27/12729-35 dated 11-11-2026**, is hereby extended from **19-11-2026 to 26-11-2026**. All other terms and conditions of the original advertisement shall remain unchanged.

No: CAOB/Plan/2026-27/13332-40

Chief Agriculture Officer,
Budgam

DIPK-7876/26
dated: 21-11-2026

DISTRICT POLICE HEADQUARTERS KUPWARA U.T of J&K
Phone No's: 01955-252450, Fax - 01955-253593 Email: dpokupwara@jkpolice.gov.in

NO:- CRB/Lookout Notice/2026/ 62498-510 Dated: 21 /11/2026

LOOKOUT NOTICE

As intimated by SHO P/S Kupwara vide letter No. 3238/5-A/2026 dated 20-11-2026, that accused Zahid Ahmad Lone S/O Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Lone R/O Gulgam Kupwara is involved in case FIR No. 345/2026 U/S 8/20, 27A, 29 NDPS Act of P/S Kupwara and is absconding after commission of crime. Despite strenuous efforts, whereabouts of the said accused are not ascertained so far. The Photograph alongwith description roll of absconding accused person is as under:

Description Roll		Photograph
Name: -	Zahid Ahmad Lone	
Parentage:-	Ghulam Mohi Ud Din Lone	
Address:-	Gulgam Kupwara	
Age:-	35 years	
Height: -	5 Feet 10 Inch	
Complexion: -	Whitish	
Hair: -	Black	
Face: -	Oblong	
Eyes:-	Brownish	
Dress:-	Pant-Shirt.	

It is therefore requested that a sharp lookout may please be maintained and if traced out or any clue leading to the whereabouts of said absconding accused came to fore, immediate information may kindly be shared on the below mentioned Email/phone No's.

Email: dpokupwara@jkpolice.gov.in
PCR Kupwara:- 7051404938
SHO P/S Kupwara: 7051404914
PS Kupwara:- 7051404915

(Sudhanshu Dhama)-IPS
Sr. Superintendent of Police,
Kupwara

DIPK-7878/26
DATED: 21-11-2026

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, Gh Mohi Ud Din Lone, S/o Qadir Lone, R/o Warapora Wawapora, Tehsil Tangmarg, District Baramulla, Jammu & Kashmir UT, do hereby notify the general public that my name has been wrongly recorded in my Aadhaar Card bearing No. 9520 0107 7314 as Ghulam Mohi U Din Lone, instead of my correct name Gh Mohi Ud Din Lone, as recorded in my Domicile Certificate. Both names refer to one and the same person, i.e., myself. I have applied for correction of my name in the Aadhaar Card accordingly. Any person having any objection may submit the same to the concerned authority within seven (7) days from the date of publication of this notice, failing which no objection shall be entertained thereafter.

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as YASMEENA BEGUM While as my actual name is YASMINAH JAN C/O MOHD HAMZAH MIR R/O MAGAM KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193221 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.
YASMINAH JAN
C/O :- MOHD HAMZAH MIR
R/O :- MAGAM, KUPWARA

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as NAZIKIT JAVID While as my actual name is NAZAKAT JAVID PLOT C/O JAVID AHMAD PLOT R/O UCHER MAGAM KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193221 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.
C/O :- JAVID AHMAD PLOT
R/O :- UCHER MAGAM, KUPWARA

FKO

PUBLIC NOTICE

I want to change my name in JK Bank account records from M Yaseen to Mohd Yaseen Khawaja . In future I will be knonw as Mohd Yaseen Khawaja .. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the JK Bank branch GMC Srinagar within seven days. After that no objectrion shall be entertained.
Mohd Yaseen Khawaja

bmg

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have applied for the issuance of DOB certificate in favour of my son Anas Bashir who was born on 18-03-2024. If anybody has any objection in this regard he/she may file them in the office of the Municipal Committee Magam Budgam within seven days. After that no objection shall be entertained.
Bashir Ahmad Malla
F/o Anas Bashir
R/o Raj Pora Heeing Tehsil Kawrahama Baramulla

bmg-R

The Jammu and Kashmir State Board Of School Education
New Campus Bemina Srinagar
Notice for General Public

The applicant/ candidate whose photograph is published in this notice and claiming to have lost her qualification certificate/s issued under as per below mentioned details:-



Roll No: 12412213
Class 10th
Year & Session 2020 Annual Regular
Registration: 1921000000080083
Name : sHEIKH fAISAL bASHIR
Father's Name: Bashir Ahmad Sheikh
Mother's Name : Firdousa Bano
Date of Birth:- 28-03-2003
Residenc:- S.K. Por (Sanoor Kali Pora) Magam Budgam

According the candidate concerned has approach to this office for issuance of Duplicate Qualification /Marks Certificate/s, so before the same is processed and provided to the candidate, under rules, anybody having any objection in this regard, shall bring into the notice of Assistant Secretary of Certificate as well as Assistant Secretary Examination Unit I & III KD within the period of 10 & 7 days respectively, from the date of publication of this notice.
(Besides the above referred "Qualification / Marks Certificate/s" bearing No: 20ARKAM- 1027695 be treated as "CANCELLED")
No: F(Cer is-I-DQC)B/KD/22
Dated 09-11-2022

Assistant Secretary Certificates, KD.

FKO

The Jammu And Kashmir Board Of School Education
New Campus Bemina Srinagar



I have passed/appeared in Secondary School Examination (Class- 10th) under Roll No:. 304451 Session: jULY Year 1998 through the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. The error has been committed by the self error against my father's name as Mohmmad Maqrool Sheikh Instead of Mohmmad Maqbool Sheikh
Now, I have applied for correction/rectification of error in the Jammu and Kashmir Board of School Education. New Campus Bernina. Srinagar, if any person has any objection in this regard, may file the same in the office of the Assistant Secretary, Certificates-KD within seven days from the date of Publication of this notice, after the expiry of said period no objection will be entertained.
Name: Suliman Maqbool
Father's name: Mohmmad Maqbool Sheikh
Mother's Name:
DOB: 05-04-1982
Residence:Quilmuqam Bandipora
Mobile no: 8899020219

fko

PUBLIC NOTICE

I, FATIMA BEGUM, Wife of ALI MOHAMMAD PARRY, Resident of PAZLI PORA, OMPORA, BUDGAM, do hereby notify the general public that my name has been incorrectly recorded in my Aadhaar Card.
My correct name is FATA instead of FATIMA BEGUM.
I hereby declare that my correct name is FATA, and the same may kindly be treated as correct for all official and legal purposes.
Any person having any objection in this regard may raise the same before the concerned authority within the prescribed period.
FATIMA BEGUM MCB
W/o ALI MOHAMMAD PARRY
R/o PAZLI PORA, OMPORA, BUDGAM

Altamash Faridi Sets Audience Grooving To Popular Hits

Agencies

Srinagar: Bollywood melodies, loud cheers and enthusiastic sing-alongs marked a musical evening at Srinagar's Joggers Park on Saturday as playback singer Altamash Faridi captivated the audience with an energetic performance.

Faridi, known for songs such as Deewani Mastani and Aaj Ibaadat from Bajirao Mastani, Mann Kunto Maula from Gunday, Ik Mulaqaat from Dream Girl and Tere Vaaste from Zara Hatke Zara Bachke, has established himself as a prominent voice in the Hindi film music industry.

Faridi enthralled the audience with his powerful vocals and popular Bollywood hits, drawing loud applause and enthusiastic responses from music lovers.

"It was a wonderful experience to watch him perform live in Srinagar. His songs brought back so many memories, and the energy of the audience made the evening even more special," said Sahil, a local resident.

The performance turned the evening into a lively musical celebration, with residents and music enthusiasts enjoying the singer's live appearance—(KNO)

Recruitment Irregularities Are Playing With The Future Of Youth: Mirwaiz

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Speaking to the media on the sidelines of an inauguration ceremony at M.A Road ceremony, Mirwaiz Umar Farooq expressed serious concern over recurring allegations of irregularities in recruitment examinations in Jammu and Kashmir, saying that such incidents were playing with the future of thousands of educated young people.

Mirwaiz said that Jammu and Kashmir was already facing an alarming unemployment situation, with limited employment opportunities available to its youth. "When even these few opportunities become clouded by allegations of scams, cheating and irregularities, it amounts to a grave injustice to students and young aspirants who spend years preparing for these examinations with hope and hard work," he said.

He called for a thorough, impartial and transparent investigation into the reported irregularities.

Responding to questions about the continuing rotten meat scandal, Mirwaiz reiterated that the government must answer what action had been taken against those responsible for the repeated incidents. He questioned the outcome of earlier investigations and assurances given to the public.

"What happened to the previous investigations? Who was found responsible, and what action was taken? Merely seizing and destroying rotten meat is not enough. Those playing with people's health and lives must be exposed and brought to justice," he said.

Mirwaiz further called upon society to socially boycott those proven to be involved in such unscrupulous practices, saying that people who knowingly endanger public health for financial gain must face not only legal consequences but also strong social disapproval. He stressed that such a boycott must be based on established facts, not allegations or rumours.

SWD Organizes Awareness Programmes On Financial Literacy, Social Security Schemes

Observer News Service

Srinagar: Social Welfare Department (SWD), Srinagar, through SANKALP-HEW Srinagar, organized a Community Awareness Programme on Financial Literacy, Financial Assistance Schemes and other Social Security Schemes to empower community members with information regarding various welfare initiatives and financial support mechanisms available to eligible beneficiaries.

During the programme, participants were sensitized about the importance of financial literacy, responsible financial management, savings, financial inclusion and awareness regarding various government-sponsored financial assistance schemes. Detailed information was also shared about the eligibility criteria, application procedures and benefits of different social welfare schemes, with the aim of enabling beneficiaries to access the assistance available to them.

In another programme organized in collaboration with Mission POSHAN, Zone Khanyar, awareness was imparted regarding Financial Literacy, Financial Assistance Schemes and other Social Security Schemes.

The programme focused on empowering women and community members, particularly those associated with Anganwadi Centres, by providing them with information about various welfare schemes and encouraging them to avail the benefits for improving their financial security and overall well-being.

DLSA Srinagar Settles 18,856 Cases In Special Lok Adalat

Observer News Service

Srinagar: In compliance to the directions of JK Legal Services Authority, District Legal Services Authority (DLSA) Srinagar, organized a Special Lok Adalat for Traffic Challans, other civil cases and Negotiable Instruments, Act, 1881 Cases which was held under the guidance of Naseer Ahmad Dar, Chairman District Legal Services Authority (Principal District & Sessions Judge), Srinagar, and overall supervision of Secretary DLSA Srinagar.

To facilitate the amicable settlement of cases, thrrr benches were constituted for the Special Lok Adalat. The 1st bench was presided over by Mohammad Ishtiyaq Alam Baba, Forest Magistrate Srinagar, along with Tasneem Kawoos City Munsiff, Srinagar asmember. 2nd bench was presided over by Junaid Imtiyaz Mir Sub-Judge Srinagar, and Iram Irtiza , 2nd Additional Munsiff Srinagar as member and 3rd bench was presided over by Mufti Nahida, Additional Spl. Mobile Magistrate/JMIC Panthachowk (Incharge), along with Advocate Sameena Ramzan as member.

A total number of19,204 Cases including traffic challanswere taken up by these benches for amicable settlement, out of which 18,856 Cases were settled.

An amount of Rs 68,83,290 was awarded as settlement amount in all these cases.


Photo : KNS

Kashmir Open Lawn Tennis Tournament Begins

Agencies

Srinagar: The two-day Kashmir Open Lawn Tennis Tournament commenced at Gindun Stadium, Rajbagh, on Saturday, bringing together 44 players in men's and Under-19 categories.

The tournament features 32 players in the men's category and 12 boys and girls in the Under-19 category.

The event is being organised by the District Budgam Lawn Tennis Association under the aegis of the J&K Lawn Tennis Association, in collaboration with the J&K Sports Council.

Senior player Rauf welcomed the initiative, saying it would help popularise tennis in Kashmir and encourage young boys and girls to take up the sport. He expressed hope that local players would eventually represent the region at national and international levels.

Javaid Ahmed Dar, General Secretary of the District Budgam Lawn Tennis Association and Organising Secretary of the tournament, said the event aimed to provide local players a common platform to showcase their skills and compete against different opponents.

He said the association plans to reach out to schools and colleges across Kashmir in the coming years to encourage greater participation among students.

Association President Shahjahan Khan said the lack of tennis infrastructure had restricted the sport's growth in Kashmir. He said the association would organise tennis camps in educational institutions to attract more youngsters.

Participants also welcomed the initiative, describing it as an opportunity to develop competitive spirit and promote tennis at the grassroots level.

Player Haider Hussain said such friendly tournaments provide recreational players an opportunity to interact, enjoy the sport and develop their competitive skills.

Another participant, Altaf Hussain, said sports were important for keeping youngsters engaged in productive activities, maintaining physical fitness and relieving stress.

The organisers expressed hope that such initiatives would help build a stronger tennis culture in Kashmir and encourage more young players to take up the sport. (KNS)

Sagar Holds Public Darbar At Nawa-E-Subah

Observer News Service

Srinagar: National Conference General Secretary and Minister Ali Mohammad Sagar Saturday held a public darbar at the party headquarters, Nawa-e-Subah, where various delegations, citizens, party leaders, and workers met him to apprise him of public issues and grievances.

Delegations highlighted concerns regarding electricity, the Revenue Department and other long-pending matters. Sagar listened to the issues and assured citizens that all genuine concerns would be brought to the notice of the relevant authorities for speedy redressal.

Speaking on the occasion, Sagar noted government led by the CM Omar Abdullah is working tirelessly for public welfare. He expressed hope that Jammu and Kashmir would soon regain statehood, enabling more effective governance.



- TRAFFIC POLICE : 9419993745, 01998-266686
- PCR: 0194-2452092,2455883
- PDD: 0194-2450213
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- CAPD: 18001807011
- SMC HEALTH OFFICER: 9469409081
- Ambulance: Kashmer EMS Service: +91 94841 00200

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- BARAMULLA: 0194-102029
- BIJBHERA: 01932-228243
- PAMPORE: 01933-294132
- PATTAN: 01954-293507
- QAZIGUND: 01951-296153

HIGHWAY STATUS

- Sgr-Jammu highway - (Open)
- Mughal Road - (Open)
- Srinagar- Leh- (Open)

HIJRI CALENDAR

11 Jumada al-Sani
1448

PRAYERS

FAJR	5: 41
ZUHR	12:14
ASR	3: 50
Magrib	5: 30
ISHA	6: 50

This Day In History

- 498 - St Symmachus begins his reign as Pope replacing Anastasius II
- 845 - First King of all Brittany, Nominoe defeats Frankish King Charles the Bald at the Battle of Ballon, near Redon
- 1220 - Frederick II crowned Holy Roman Emperor in Rome by Pope Honorius III
- 1346 - Street fights in Utrecht, Hollandsgezinde Gunterlingen statements
- 1497 - Portuguese navigator Vasco da Gama rounds Cape of Good Hope on way to first voyage from Europe to reach India
- 1683 - Purcell's "Welcome to All the Pleasures" premieres in London
- 1699 - Treaty of Preobrasjensku Denmark, Russia, Saksen and Poland divide Sweden
- 1707 - Prince Johan Willem Friso sworn in as viceroy of Friesland
- 1714 - King Karel XII leaves Turkish captivity to return to Sweden
- 1794 - Strasbourg Alsace-Lorraine, prohibits circumcision and wearing of beards
- 1809 - Peregrine Williamson of Baltimore patents a steel pen
- 1830 - Charles Grey, 2nd Earl Grey, becomes Prime Minister of the United Kingdom
- Charles Grey
- 1864 - American Civil War Battle at Griswoldville, Georgia, ends after 650 casualties
- 1864 - Union General O Howard orders plunderers be shot to death
- 1872 - Franz Grillparzer's "Die Judin von Toledo" premieres in Prague
- 1884 - T Thomas Fortune starts NY Freeman (NY Age) newspaper
- 1886 Victoria Street Cable Tram route begins in Melbourne, Australia
- 1899 - Battle at Willow Grange, Natal (British vs Boer army)
- 1900 - Paul Kruger, exiled President of the Boer Republic of South Africa, is given a popular welcome when he lands at Marseilles, France
- 1905 - British, Italian, Russian, French and Austro-Hungarian fleet attacks Lesbos
- 1906 - Peter Stolypin, Prime Minister of Russia, introduces agrarian reforms allowing peasants to withdraw from the communes and take their share of land for private ownership
- 1908 - 1st US-Japanese baseball game Reach All-Americans defeat Waseda U, 5-0
- 1914 - Indian troops take Basra in Mesopotamia.
- 1924 - Britain orders Egyptians out of Sudan.
- 1930 - Elijah Muhammad forms Nation of Islam in Detroit. .
- 1960 - French National Meeting decide to build own nuclear weapons.
- 1967 - UN Sec council passes resolut 242-Israel must give back occupied land
- 1969 - Isolation of single gene announced by scientists at Harvard University.
- 1974 - UN General Assembly recognizes Palestine right to sovereignty
- 1989 - US 63rd manned space mission STS 33 (Discovery 9) launches into orbit.
- 1990 - Margaret Thatcher announces her resignation as British Prime Minister.
- 2002 - In Nigeria, more than 100 people are killed at an attack aimed at the contestants of the Miss World contest.
- 2003 - In Tbilisi, Georgia, opponents of President Eduard Shevardnadze seize the parliament building and demand the president's resignation.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is inform to the general public that my name has been wrongly mentioned in my aadhar as NAZIKIT JAVID While as my actual name is NAZAKAT JAVID PLOT C/O JAVID AHMAD PLOT R/O UCHER MAGAM KUPWARA District KUPWARA 193221 Now I want to apply for the correction of the same if anybody is having any objection he/she may contact concerned authority within the period of seven days after that no objection will be entertained.

NAZAKAT JAVID PLOT
C/O :- JAVID AHMAD PLOT
R/O :- UCHER MAGAM, KUPWARA fko

The Danger Outside Our Doors

Dog attacks, rabies and overflowing garbage have turned neighbourhoods into places of fear. A humane solution begins with functioning municipal services and public safety.



Hidayat Bukhari

Sitting in SMHS Hospital with mothers waiting for treatment, I saw fear and pain no law can erase. Rabies kills nearly always once symptoms appear.

Kashmir can stop this.

The solution is straightforward: control waste, manage streets, sterilise and vaccinate strays, and prioritise human safety.

Singapore keeps streets free of stray dogs by removing garbage promptly. Germany and the UK protect animals and people by combining urban planning, strict waste management, and humane animal control.

Kashmir can do the same, but only if action comes before more children die.

I recently saw a boy chained, convulsing, screaming, his body wracked by rabies. His "crime" was a dog bite. He could have survived if the system worked: timely vaccines, functioning shelters, sterilisation drives, and clean streets. Instead, he perished. His death is not isolated.

Dog bites in Jammu and Kashmir have skyrocketed: 22,110 in 2022, 34,664 in 2023, and over 51,000 in 2024, a 130 percent jump in two years.

Between June 2024 and May 2025, over 6,200 people suffered attacks.

In Srinagar, strays dominate residential lanes and commercial hubs. Sanat Nagar Chowk sees dogs scattering traffic, Rawalpora empties at dusk. Motorcyclists crash while fleeing packs in Bemina. In Safakadal, children like Arhan Bilal arrive at SMHS Hospital with severe injuries.

The stray-stories repeat in other parts of the valley: families trapped indoors, children running, and women cornered. Even in Jammu, hospitals log hundreds of bite victims monthly.

Legal interventions offer partial hope. The Supreme Court's 2025 Delhi-NCR order demanded all strays be captured and relocated without return. Animal welfare groups challenged it, citing the 2013 Animal Birth Control Rules, which mandate sterilisation, vaccination, and return.

The Court revised the order: only "aggressive" dogs could be detained, others could return post-sterilisation.

For activists, it was a win. For grieving families, it was yet another betrayal. Rules matter little to a mother whose child lies injured or dead.

Infrastructure is failing too. Shelters house dozens when thousands roam. Sterilisation drives sputter. Rabies vaccines vanish from rural centers.

The root problem is municipal: garbage piles, open dumps, and unmanaged waste attract strays.

Across 78 urban bodies in J&K, 1,502 tons of waste is produced daily. Only 446 tons are processed, leaving over 1,000 tons for streets and dumps.

Srinagar generates 760 tons daily, just 304 are managed. Jammu produces 657 tons, only 87 tons processed.

Open bins, drains, and heaps provide food, shelter, and breeding grounds for dogs.

The correlation is clear: more waste, more strays, and more attacks.

Municipal failure fuels the epidemic.

Effective waste management, like daily collection, segregation, and landfill management, reduces stray populations without cruelty.

Sterilisation and vaccination programs can curb reproduction and rabies. Community awareness campaigns, combined with strong municipal action, can restore safety. Compassion can coexist with protection.

Sitting in SMHS Hospital with mothers waiting for treatment, I saw fear and pain no law can erase. Rabies kills nearly always once symptoms appear.

The dogs are not savage. Our silence is. Unless Kashmir acts to control waste, enforce sterilisation and vaccination, and prioritise human life, the valley will see more children chained, convulsing, dying.

The author is an AI researcher and columnist based in Kashmir. He can be reached at hidsfan@gmail.com.

The Pain We Don't See

Depression, anxiety and trauma are affecting generations, but limited psychiatric services and social stigma continue to keep people from seeking care.



Dr. Musawir Mohsin Parsa

Men, in particular, see emotional struggle as weakness. So they swallow their pain until it spills out in sleeplessness, rage, or withdrawal.

I have spent years watching patients in Kashmir walk into clinics with pain that has no clear name.

Some come complaining of backaches, dizziness, or breathlessness. Others describe sleepless nights or a strange heaviness that never leaves them.

When you listen longer, their stories unfold into something deeper: a life shaped by fear, uncertainty, and loss.

For over three decades, our valley has lived through cycles of unrest that have left marks far beyond the physical. The broken bones and shattered structures are visible. But the anxiety, trauma, and despair are not.

Yet it is these invisible wounds that have silently changed how people here think, feel, and relate to one another.

Studies over the years have shown alarming trends. At least one in five Kashmiris shows symptoms of depression, anxiety, or post-traumatic stress.

At the Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences in Srinagar, the number of patients seeking psychiatric care has multiplied several times since the early 2000s.

Behind every figure lies a story of someone who struggles to make sense of a life interrupted.

Young people carry much of this burden. They have grown up in an atmosphere where plans can collapse overnight.

In classrooms, I have seen students who cannot focus, and flare up in anger or drift into silence. Many feel that their future is always on hold, their choices always uncertain.

The problem grows harder when help is scarce. There are barely a few dozen psychiatrists serving a population of more than seven million. Rural areas often have none. Even in cities, hospital queues stretch long, and counselling is treated like a costly choice.

For many, therapy is either too expensive or too far away.

Stigma makes the situation worse. In our culture, people rarely say they are depressed. They say they have "tension" or "nerves." Families hesitate to seek help, fearing judgment.

Men, in particular, see emotional struggle as weakness. So they swallow their pain until it spills out in sleeplessness, rage, or withdrawal.

In all this, women often become the silent carriers of stress. I have met mothers who absorb the worries of an entire household, caretakers who collapse under invisible loads. Their suffering rarely enters medical charts, but it shapes the emotional pulse of our homes.

There are ways forward if we choose to see mental health as part of community wellbeing. Schools need counsellors as much as teachers. Hospitals must treat trauma alongside injury. Local health workers can be trained to recognize early signs of distress. Technology can bridge distance, through phone counselling, tele-sessions, and support networks for caregivers.

Healing minds is slow work, but it is also hopeful work. Every conversation and act of listening, chips away at years of silence. Kashmir has shown immense character through conflict, but resilience should never mean enduring pain without help.

We cannot build a peaceful society while its people carry invisible wounds. It is time to make mental health a shared responsibility: spoken of openly, treated early, and cared for with the same urgency as any other form of recovery.

Only then can the valley begin to heal, both inside and out.

The author is a physical therapist and educator based in Kashmir. He can be reached at parsamusawir@gmail.com.

The Decline of Large Families

A sharp fall in fertility is transforming family structures and raising difficult questions about development, identity and the valley's demographic future.



Falak Aslam

Looking at today's numbers for Kashmir, it's hard to connect them to the stories older generations tell.

Families that once filled entire courtyards and spanned generations are now smaller.

The Total Fertility Rate in Jammu and Kashmir has fallen to 1.4, well below the replacement level of 2.1.

According to the NFHS-5 survey, this is a sharp drop from 2.0 just five years ago.

The change carries real political weight in a region where representation has already thinned since 2019.

Seat allocation is still based on the 1971 Census, and a new delimitation after 2026 could boost states with growing populations while leaving shrinking regions like Kashmir with less influence.

As I looked closer at these changes, I kept asking what caused them and who benefits from the transformation of our families.

Kashmir's demographic story is tied up with debates on development, governance, and what the world now calls population management.

These words sound technical, even harmless, but they hide strong ideas about how societies should look and how much life they should contain.

Population reduction is often presented as a path to prosperity, backed by examples of wealthy nations with smaller families.

Global development narratives repeat this idea, mixing promises of growth with calls for family planning in poorer regions.

The small, efficient household has come to symbolize modernity. But in reality, many families who stop at one or two children are driven less by the appeal of modern life and more by economic pressure.

Wages fall short, secure jobs are hard to find, and education and healthcare demand careful planning.

For many, shrinking families reflect stress and scarcity more than progress.

Real change takes time, resources, and political will. In many places, states turn to population control because it seems easier to measure and manage.

India's history is full of such efforts. Family planning programs were embedded in Five-Year Plans, public campaigns, and, at darker moments, the sterilization drives of the mid-1970s. International aid often tied development funds to adopting these policies.

The message reaching communities was clear: smaller families promise a better future.

Choice dominates this conversation. We are told we are free to decide how to build our families. That freedom feels empowering, though the pressures behind it run deep.

When incentives favour smaller households, jobs grow less secure, and everyday life becomes more costly, personal decisions are shaped by forces far beyond the home.

The state rarely needs to give orders. Governance works through subtle signals that silently reshape what feels normal.

Michel Foucault called this process biopower, a form of power that manages life rather than simply repressing it. It sets standards for what counts as responsible or modern behaviour.

The low fertility rate in Kashmir now feels like the normal pattern. Many young couples assume having fewer children is simply the way society moves. The choice feels personal, though it often reflects larger political and economic pressures.

Kashmiri families have long carried a sense of continuity through children. Losing larger households shifts how care passes across generations. Elders rely on smaller circles of support, and communities built on shared responsibilities feel the strain.

Foucault argued that capitalism depends on this kind of population management. It needs stable, predictable workforces and populations that can be governed without strain.

The focus is less on improving systems that support people and more on adjusting how many people exist.

This perspective helps explain why falling fertility across many Indian states seems to follow the logic of contemporary capitalism.

The economy no longer depends on large numbers of workers. Automation reduces the need for human labour, and welfare systems struggle to support growing populations.

Migration fills gaps, letting wealthier regions and industries import workers without investing in long-term social support.

Kashmir shows this clearly. The Report on Migration in India (2020-21) records over 1.22 lakh migrant workers coming to the region for jobs.

Migrant labour keeps businesses running, but it also exposes deeper imbalances. Local economies weaken when young people leave in search of opportunities, and reliance on external workers grows.

What once seemed a byproduct of modern life now drives political and economic dependence on the centre.

Falling fertility changes the cultural landscape, too.

Kashmiri families have long carried a sense of continuity through children. Losing larger households shifts how care passes across generations. Elders rely on smaller circles of support, and communities built on shared responsibilities feel the strain.

Rising substance abuse among young people adds another layer of concern. Fertility drops when society absorbs this level of disruption.

Population is never neutral. Choices about fertility touch questions of faith, identity, responsibility, and autonomy.

Kashmir's demographic shift shows how numbers emerge from history, governance, and daily struggle.

This story asks us to look beyond the simple idea that smaller families equal progress. It calls us to see the human world behind the statistics.

Families make difficult decisions in a landscape shaped by policy, economic pressures, and forms of control that rarely feel like control.

Kashmir's demographic future will shape its politics, culture, and sense of self.

To understand where the valley is headed, we must move past the notion that fewer children automatically mean development.

We need to see how life is governed and how those decisions reshape the world we inherit.

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Iqbal and Palestine | Part One

The poet-philosopher's 1931 visit to Jerusalem brought him face to face with a struggle that he would continue to address through his poetry, political interventions and appeals for Muslim solidarity.



Dr. Hyder Reza Zabet

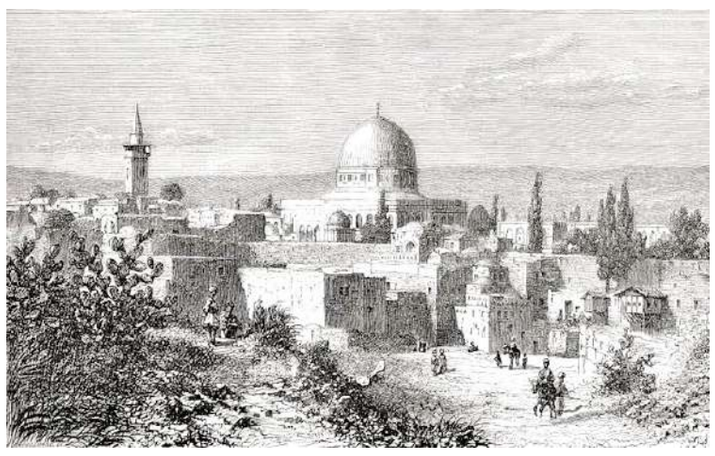
On December 6, 1931, Allama Muhammad Iqbal arrived in Jerusalem after travelling by train from Cairo, accompanied by the Indian Muslim journalist and scholar Maulana Ghulam Rasul Mehr. His journey took him through Gaza before reaching the Palestinian capital, where he was received at the railway station by Haji Amin al-Husseini, the Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, and other Palestinian Muslim leaders.

Soon after his arrival, Iqbal visited Masjid al-Aqsa and offered prayers. During his visit to the Haram al-Sharif, he also stopped at the grave of Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar, the prominent Indian Muslim leader, journalist, poet and one of the leading figures of the Khilafat Movement.

Jauhar had died in London on January 4, 1931, while attending the political proceedings associated with the Round Table Conferences. His wish had been to be buried in Jerusalem rather than return to India under British colonial rule. His grave lies within the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, near the Dome of the Rock. Iqbal paid his respects there before continuing his visit to the mosque.

Jauhar's burial in Jerusalem had a significance beyond his personal wishes. It connected the Indian Muslim struggle against British colonialism with the political concerns of Palestinians and the wider Muslim world. His life and death represented a generation of Muslim leaders who viewed the fate of their communities in different parts of the world as interconnected.

Iqbal had travelled to Jerusalem to attend the World Muslim Congress, also known as Motamar al-Alam al-Islami, organised under the leadership of Haji Amin al-Husseini. The gathering brought Muslim scholars, political leaders and representatives from different countries together at a time when Palestine's future was becoming an increasingly important international question.



The Congress attracted delegates from several parts of the Muslim world, including Chinese Turkistan, Indonesia, Bukhara and the Balkans. Iqbal was subsequently elected vice-president of the World Muslim Congress, whose international headquarters was established in Jerusalem.

The political circumstances surrounding the gathering were complicated. Palestine had come under British military occupation in 1917, following the defeat of Ottoman forces during the First World War. British administration continued under the Mandate, approved by the League of Nations in 1922. The Balfour Declaration of November 2, 1917, had already committed the British Government to supporting the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine, while stating that the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities should not be prejudiced.

The declaration, addressed by British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour to Lionel Walter Rothschild, became a defining document in the history of the Zionist movement and the subsequent conflict over Palestine.

Rothschild was an influential British politician and a prominent supporter of political Zionism. He maintained close connections with Chaim Weizmann, one of the leading figures of the movement, and helped communicate Zionist political objectives to influential circles in Britain.

The correspondence between Rothschild and the British Government formed part of the diplomatic process leading to the Balfour Declaration. A draft proposal sent by Rothschild to Balfour in July 1917 was among the documents associated with these discussions. The final declaration, issued on November 2 that year, became an important diplomatic foundation for the Zionist movement's efforts to establish a national home in Palestine.

Another member of the Rothschild family, Edmond James de Rothschild, had played a different role. His contribution was primarily financial, supporting Jewish agricultural settlements and land acquisition in Palestine from the late nineteenth century. While Edmond helped finance settlement activities, Lionel Walter Rothschild became an important political intermediary in Britain.

The Balfour Declaration was followed by a series of international developments that transformed Palestine's political future. At the San Remo Conference in April 1920, the Allied powers agreed on the framework for the British Mandate over Palestine. The League of Nations subsequently approved the Mandate in 1922, incorporating the provisions of the Balfour Declaration.

During the British Mandate, Jewish immigration to Palestine increased, particularly as persecution and political instability in Europe drove more people to seek refuge elsewhere. Zionist organisations expanded their political, educational and economic institutions, while disputes over land, immigration and political representation intensified tensions with the indigenous Palestinian Arab population.

The Palestinian Arabs, who constituted the majority of the population when the Balfour Declaration was issued, had not been recognised as a national political community with corresponding rights of self-determination in the declaration. This omission became one of the principal sources of Palestinian opposition to British policy.

The question of Palestine was also connected to the wider political transformation of the Middle East following the First World War. The Ottoman Empire, which had administered Palestine for approximately four centuries, lost control of the region during the British military campaign of 1917-1918.

British forces under Field Marshal Edmund Allenby captured Jerusalem in December 1917. The campaign involved soldiers from different parts of the British Empire, including Indian cavalry regiments contributed by the princely states of Hyderabad, Mysore and Jodhpur.

These regiments formed part of the 15th Imperial Service Cavalry Brigade. Their most celebrated engagement came during the Battle of Haifa on September 23, 1918, when Indian cavalry units fought Ottoman forces for control of the city. The Jodhpur Lancers led the principal cavalry charge, while the Mysore Lancers attacked Ottoman positions. Major Dalpat Singh Shekhawat, commander of the Jodhpur Lancers, was killed during the battle and is remembered as the Hero of Haifa.



The Teen Murti Memorial in New Delhi commemorates the contribution of the Indian cavalrymen from Hyderabad, Mysore and Jodhpur during the First World War. Designed by British sculptor Leonard Jennings, the memorial was inaugurated by Viceroy Lord Reading on March 8, 1924.

The military occupation of Palestine and the subsequent British Mandate created the political conditions in which the Zionist movement expanded its activities. The immigration of Jewish communities from Europe, the acquisition of land and the development of Zionist institutions continued through the 1920s and 1930s. Palestinian opposition to these developments grew, particularly as the prospect of an independent Palestinian political future appeared increasingly uncertain.

The situation eventually led to the Palestinian Arab revolt of 1936-1939, directed against British rule, Jewish immigration and the expansion of the Zionist movement. British authorities responded with military force. The revolt became one of the defining episodes of Palestinian resistance during the Mandate period.

The British Government appointed the Peel Commission in 1936 to investigate the causes of the unrest and recommend a political settlement. In July 1937, the commission proposed partitioning Palestine into separate Arab and Jewish states. The proposal marked the first formal British recommendation for partition and generated strong opposition among Palestinian Arabs.

The question of Palestine had, by then, become an important concern among Muslim intellectuals and political leaders beyond the Arab world. Iqbal was among those who viewed the issue as part of a wider struggle against colonial rule and the political arrangements imposed by European powers.

His visit to Jerusalem in December 1931 brought these concerns into direct contact with the Palestinian political leadership. The World Muslim Congress was being held under British military administration, and its proceedings highlighted the tension between the colonial authorities and the desire of Muslim leaders to establish an international platform for political cooperation.

Haji Amin al-Husseini addressed the delegates and called for a common platform among Muslims to defend Palestine against British imperial policies. The Congress also discussed the future of Muslim political solidarity and the possibility of reviving cooperation among Muslim communities following the collapse of the Ottoman Caliphate.

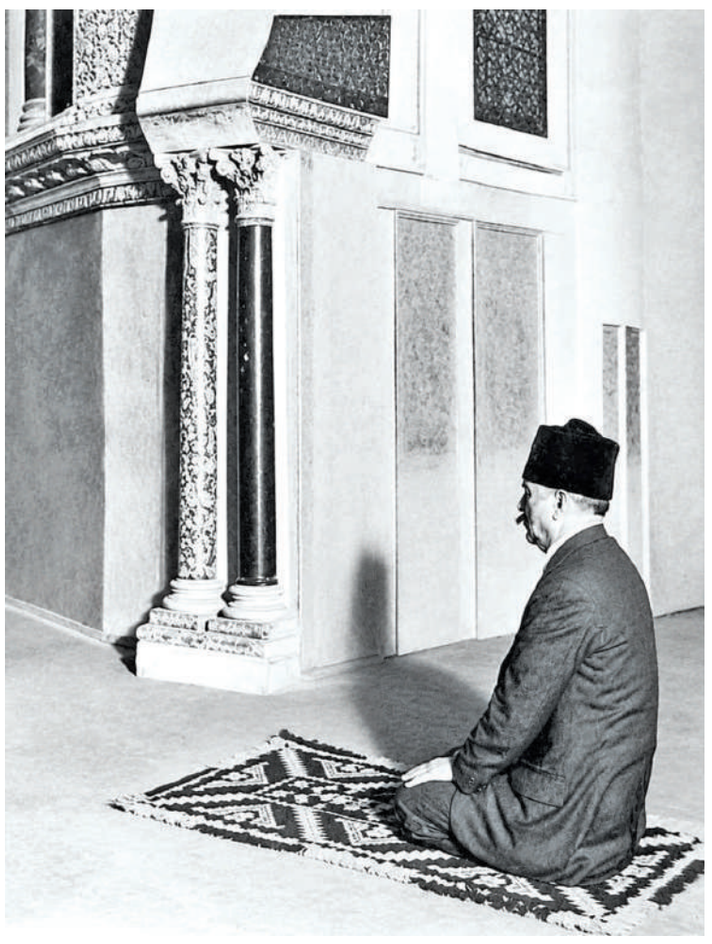
The gathering was not without controversy. British officials were concerned about its political implications and considered the possibility of prohibiting it. However, authorities in Palestine feared that banning the Congress could provoke widespread unrest in the British colonies.

The proceedings brought together Muslims from different theological and geographical backgrounds. One notable moment was the participation of a leading Shia religious scholar from Iraq, who led prayers at Masjid al-Aqsa before a congregation largely composed of Sunni Muslims. For Iqbal, such moments meant the possibility of cooperation beyond sectarian differences.

On December 14, 1931, Iqbal addressed the delegates. He spoke about Muslim brotherhood and the need for political solidarity, warning that internal divisions could leave Muslim societies vulnerable to foreign domination.

His intervention showed a central concern in his political philosophy. He believed that the strength of Muslim societies depended on their ability to develop a common political purpose.

Among the observations attributed to him during the Congress was the warning: "My fear is from the Muslims of the world themselves."



The statement captured his concern that divisions within Muslim societies could become as damaging as external domination. He believed that political weakness often emerged when communities failed to recognise their shared interests and responsibilities.

Iqbal left Jerusalem on December 15, 1931, after spending nine days in the city. His participation in the Congress was part of a much wider engagement with colonialism, political independence and the condition of Muslim societies. Palestine would remain an important subject in his public interventions and poetry until the end of his life.

His criticism of colonial rule had developed over many years. He opposed British, French, Portuguese, Spanish and Dutch domination of Muslim territories and repeatedly questioned the political arrangements through which European powers exercised control over weaker societies.

For Iqbal, colonialism was sustained by foreign military and economic power, but it also depended on internal divisions and the cooperation of local collaborators. He returned to this theme in his Persian epic Javid Nama, published in 1932.

In the poem, he invoked the historical examples of Mir Jafar of Bengal and Mir Sadiq of Mysore, whose actions contributed to the defeat of Siraj-ud-Daulah in 1757 and Tipu Sultan in 1799. Iqbal regarded their conduct as examples of betrayal that had weakened the political independence of Muslim societies.

The poem also invokes the spirit of Jamal al-Din al-Afghani, the nineteenth-century intellectual and advocate of Muslim unity, whose ideas influenced political debates about European imperialism and the future of the East.

Iqbal's criticism extended to the League of Nations, the international organisation established after the First World War to maintain peace and prevent future conflicts. He regarded its political arrangements with suspicion, particularly when powerful countries used international institutions to advance their own interests at the expense of weaker nations.

In his poetry, he described the League through the expression Kafan Chors, or shroud thieves, suggesting that the powerful were dividing the possessions of the defeated and oppressed under the appearance of international cooperation.

For Iqbal, the institution represented the limitations of an international order that claimed to protect peace while allowing imperial powers to determine the political future of other societies.

His criticism was also directed at the European concept of nationalism when it became an instrument of political domination. In his poem Wataniyat, included in Zarb-e-Kalim (1936), he questioned the elevation of territorial nationalism into an overriding political identity.

He believed that nationalism, when treated as an absolute principle, could divide Muslim societies and weaken their wider political and spiritual bonds.

One of the verses expresses this concern: "Country is the biggest among these new gods! / Its garment is the shroud of religion."

Through these lines, Iqbal questioned the tendency to place national boundaries above religious and moral obligations. His concern was that political identities imposed by modern European nationalism could become instruments of division, particularly in societies already weakened by colonial rule.

His ideas on colonialism were also part of a larger intellectual project. In The Reconstruction of Religious Thought in Islam, based on lectures delivered during the late 1920s and published in book form in 1930, he argued that Muslim societies needed to rethink their intellectual inheritance and recover the confidence to engage with the modern world.

He believed that political freedom could not be separated from intellectual renewal. Muslims needed to develop the capacity to think independently, question inherited assumptions and participate actively in shaping their political future.

This understanding of freedom would become increasingly important in his interventions on Palestine. His concern was not confined to the territory itself. He viewed the Palestinian question as part of a wider struggle involving colonialism, political self-determination and the ability of Muslim societies to defend their collective interests.

His engagement with Palestine had begun well before his journey to Jerusalem. By the time he attended the World Muslim Congress in 1931, he had already spoken publicly about the future of Muslim territories in West Asia and the obligations of Britain towards their people.

His visit to Jerusalem gave this political concern a more immediate and personal dimension. The grave of Maulana Muhammad Ali Jauhar, the gathering of Muslim representatives from different countries and the presence of the Palestinian leadership brought together several strands of the political struggle that had occupied Iqbal for years.

The Congress ended, but his engagement with Palestine continued. In the years that followed, he would speak more directly about the rights of Palestinians, challenge the proposed partition of their homeland and appeal to Indian Muslim leaders to make the issue a priority.

To be continued.

— The author is an Indian-Iranian scholar who earned his PhD in Medieval History from the Department of History, Osmania University, Hyderabad.

CONTD. FROM **FRONT PAGE**

Recruitment Controversy

the students, and the condition of young people are not a priority for them," he added.

Mehdi accused both the Lieutenant Governor's administration and the elected government of evading responsibility, saying the administrative system in place since 2018 had failed to prevent recurring recruitment controversies while the elected government had been mandated to introduce reforms.

"Both must take responsibility," he said.

He also questioned the elected government's response to the allegations, referring to its review of recruitment institutions and asking why corrective steps were not being taken.

"If the elected administration reviews these institutions, why is it not taking steps to stop the irregularities?" he asked.

Mehdi had also referred to a JKSSB review meeting chaired by Chief Minister Omar Abdullah in May, questioning the government's position on its role in the recruitment process.

"When it is time to hold a review, then it falls under their jurisdiction; when it is time to take responsibility, then it is not in their jurisdiction," he said.

Demanding accountability at the senior administrative level, Mehdi said action against individual suspects alone would not be enough to prevent further controversies.

"Heads should roll. Those responsible must be punished," he said.

Referring to the impact on job aspirants, Mehdi said students spend years preparing for competitive examinations while their families invest substantial resources in their education. He said allegations of compromised examinations raised questions about whether deserving candidates were being given a fair opportunity.

Meanwhile, PDP president Mehbooba Mufti criticised the National Conference-led government over alleged examination irregularities, saying repeated controversies were jeopardising students' futures. She demanded a thorough probe into what she described as a paper leak syndicate.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of an inauguration ceremony in Srinagar, Mufti called for accountability and action against those responsible.

Mirwaiz Umar Farooq also expressed concern over recurring allegations of irregularities in recruitment examinations, saying such incidents were playing with the future of thousands of educated youth.

He called for a thorough, impartial and transparent investigation, stressing that allegations of cheating and scams amounted to grave injustice to aspirants who spend years preparing for competitive examinations.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah's advisor Nasir Aslam Wani defended the government, saying authorities had taken cognisance wherever wrongdoing was reported and proceedings were underway.

He accused the PDP of avoiding questions about its own record, saying, "They were in government after 2014. What did they do here?"

Congress MLA from Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat termed the alleged paper leaks a serious failure of the system and called for transparency and accountability in recruitment institutions.

Education Minister Shameema Firdous said strict action would follow if irregularities were established in the JKSSB Finance Accounts Assistant examination, asserting that an inquiry had already been ordered.

Earlier, police dismantled an alleged hi-tech cheating racket during the examination in Jammu, arresting 14 suspects, including four government employees, and seizing wireless radio sets and mobile phones.

A Special Investigation Team is probing the wider network.

Student Sahil Parray, at the protest site, demanded a transparent examination system and a level playing field, recalling that three JKSSB examinations were cancelled in 2022 and 2023 over irregularities.

On the continuing rotten meat controversy, Mirwaiz questioned the outcome of previous investigations and sought answers from the government about action taken against those responsible.

"Merely seizing and destroying rotten meat is not enough. Those playing with people's health and lives must be exposed and brought to justice," he said, calling for a social boycott of those proven to be involved.(Inputs from agencies)

70.03% Turnout

reflecting an encouraging level of public participation in the democratic process and celebrating the true essence of democracy," Saxena said in a post on X.

He said the elections marked a milestone in self-governance, being the first Panchayat and municipal elections since 2018 and since Ladakh became a Union Territory in 2019.

"My sincere thanks to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah for their steadfast vision and commitment to empowering and strengthening grassroots democracy across Ladakh," he added.

The Panchayat polls covered 192 Panchayat Halqas across eight districts, comprising 192 Sarpanch and 1,428 Panch positions. Fifty-five Sarpanches and 1,186 Panches were elected unopposed, leaving 137 Sarpanch and 242 Panch seats for polling.

In the Municipal Council elections, polling was conducted across all 21 wards of Leh, while four of the 17 wards in Kargil were filled unopposed, with voting held in the remaining 13 wards.

Election authorities made extensive arrangements to facilitate polling across the geographically dispersed region.

In Zanskar, helicopter services were deployed to airlift polling teams to three remote and road-inaccessible polling stations, ensuring the electoral process reached some of Ladakh's most isolated settlements, officials said.

Polling personnel, security agencies and officials from various departments coordinated the transportation of election material, deployment of staff and provision of facilities at polling stations.

The elections, however, unfolded against a backdrop of political discontent, with the Leh Apex Body (LAB) raising concerns over the timing and conduct of the electoral exercise, particularly in view of the forthcoming Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Council (LAHDC) elections.

At a press conference, LAB chairman Chering Dorje Lakruk and climate activist Sonam Wangchuk said there was little opposition to the Panchayat and Municipal Council elections but reiterated their demand for deferment of the LAHDC polls scheduled for December 4.

"People had no objection to having local bodies at the village level. The major opposition is to the hill council elections being held in December, something that has never happened before in Ladakh's history," Wangchuk said.

They claimed that several villages had boycotted the elections over alleged arbitrary delimitation of hill council constituencies and shifting of polling stations.

Officials said the Panchayat and Municipal Council elections were an important step towards establishing elected local institutions in Ladakh, providing platforms for addressing village-level development priorities, civic amenities and public services.

A total of 266 candidates are in the fray for the eight hill councils, while 36 of the 100 seats have been reserved for women.

Polling commenced at 8 am and ended peacefully at 5 pm.

From urban centres to remote border villages, people of different age groups and genders participated in the electoral process, officials said.

In Turtuk, one of India's northernmost villages, voters participated in the Panchayat elections. Niyaz Maha, a voter from Turtuk Farool, highlighted the importance of exercising one's democratic right and contributing to the selection of local representatives.

Phobrang, a remote border village in the Changthang region, also witnessed participation, with residents overcoming geographical challenges and long distances to cast their votes.

Ladakh's Member of Parliament Mohmad Haneefa Jan also cast his vote at Biamathang, Baroo, in the Kargil Municipal Council election.

J&K To Remain Dry

the closing days of November, signalling colder nights across the Kashmir Valley and other parts of Jammu and Kashmir.

According to the weather bulletin, maximum temperatures during the past 24 hours remained 1-3 degrees Celsius above normal at several places in Kashmir division, while they were 1-4 degrees Celsius above normal at many places in Jammu division.

Kupwara recorded the highest maximum temperature in Kashmir division at 18 degrees Celsius, while Kathua was the warmest place in Jammu division at 27 degrees Celsius.

Minimum night temperatures also remained 1-2 degrees Celsius above normal at many places in both divisions.

Pahalgam and Gulmarg recorded the lowest minimum temperature in Kashmir division at 0.4 degrees Celsius each, while Bhaderwah registered the lowest night temperature in Jammu division at 3.6 degrees Celsius.

Srinagar recorded a minimum temperature of 2 degrees Celsius against the normal of 0.7 degrees Celsius, while Qazigund settled at 2.2 degrees Celsius and Kupwara at 0.8 degrees Celsius. Kokernag recorded 3.1 degrees Celsius.

The department said weather remained dry across Jammu and Kashmir during the past 24 hours till 8:30 am on Saturday, with no rainfall or snowfall recorded at reporting stations.

The warning-impact outlook remained nil throughout the forecast period, with no weather warning issued for either Kashmir or Jammu division for the next seven days.

The MeT department has advised people to keep track of subsequent weather updates as temperatures are expected to decline towards the end of November.

Education Dept Weighs

instructions had already been issued and strict action would follow wherever violations were established.

She said the financial burden on parents, particularly those from economically weaker sections, needed to be addressed and schools could not be allowed to collect unauthorised charges.

"An order has already been issued. If we receive complaints against any school regarding the collection of donations, strict action will be taken," she said.

Addressing complaints over the prescription of additional textbooks by private schools, the minister clarified that institutions were free to provide supplementary education but could not make the purchase of additional books compulsory for students.

"We are not restricting schools from imparting additional education. Students should study the recommended textbooks. If schools want to teach them something extra, they can do so, but they cannot force children to purchase additional books," Firdous said.

She suggested that supplementary study material could be made available through digital platforms or shared classroom resources without imposing an additional financial burden on parents.

"Schools can use the internet or keep a book in the classroom to teach students, but they cannot force them to purchase extra books," she said.

Responding to questions over alleged irregularities in recruitment examinations and criticism from opposition parties, Firdous said the government would take action against those found responsible for any wrongdoing.

"If anyone is found involved, action will be taken against them," she said.

Asked about pending departmental matters, including Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) meetings and other service-related grievances of employees, the minister said addressing such issues was part of her responsibility.

"We are here to work. We have not come merely to shake hands," she remarked.

Firdous, who visited the National Conference headquarters following her induction into the Council of Ministers, said people from different parts of Srinagar had approached her with grievances concerning drinking water, education, infrastructure and other public services.

She said visiting the party headquarters was important to her as she had started her political journey from the institution, adding that efforts would be made to address the grievances brought to her notice. (KNS)

HC Pulls Up Authorities

and persons with disabilities in buses, minibuses, sumos, e-rickshaws and other public service vehicles.

The directions also require weekly compliance and enforcement reports to be submitted to the Transport Commissioner. The High Court observed that compliance reports sought through its August 10 order were still awaited from the Transport Commissioner, J&K Legal Services Authority, Transport Department and Traffic Police.

Allowing more time to the respondents to submit compliance details, the High Court said it reserves the discretion to issue further directions to make the PIL more effective and ensure a sense of safety and security for women commuters. The matter has been listed for further hearing on December 23, 2026.(KNO)

Art 370 Move Curbed

force and the state.

He said the prestigious honour, the highest distinction bestowed upon a police force in the country, recognised the courage, discipline, dedication and commitment of its personnel.

The Home Minister also distributed appointment letters to more than 900 newly recruited police personnel.

Shah said the state police was playing an important role in maintaining peace and order while tackling challenges such as drug trafficking, organised crime, smuggling and cybercrime.

He said the Congress-led UPA government had allocated Rs 33,530 crore to the Northeast between 2004 and 2014, while the Modi government provided Rs 1,49,646 crore between 2014 and 2026.

Later in the day, Shah chaired closed-door meetings at Lok Bhavan with Chief Minister Pema Khandu, Union Minister Kiren Rijiju and senior government and security officials to discuss various issues concerning the state.

He reviewed the law and order situation, internal security and border management in the state, stressing the need for better coordination among security agencies, stronger intelligence networks and improved infrastructure along the international border.

Two Food Dept

Appeal) Rules, 1956, following departmental proceedings and recommendations of the Inter-Disciplinary Committee.

Officials said both employees had been booked by police in cases under the NDPS Act.

Doctors' Agitation

with the protesting residents, who have been seeking revision of their monthly stipends and alleging disparity in remuneration compared to their counterparts elsewhere in the country.

AIMSA representatives, including Chief Advisors and PG residents Dr Muyeen Ahsan, Dr Sushant and Dr Mohammad Hussain from GMC Srinagar, participated in the protest. Dr Abhimanyu Manhas, Dr Abhishek Mittal, Dr Sanah Javaid and Dr K.R. Jaipal from GMC Jammu, along with Dr Rajat Mishra and Dr Owais Khan from GMC Baramulla, also extended support.

Dr Abhimanyu Manhas, Vice President of the RDA GMC Jammu, reiterated the decision to suspend routine ward duties, OPD services and elective operation theatre lists as part of the agitation.

AIMSA President J&K Dr Mohammad Momin Khan cautioned authorities against any attempt to intimidate or take retaliatory action against protesting doctors, maintaining that demands concerning fair remuneration, maternity benefits and professional welfare were legitimate and should not be treated as indiscipline.

Dr Ravi, a DNB resident at JLNM Hospital Rainawari, said DNB residents were receiving Rs 48,000 per month and would join the protest from November 23. Dr Yamin, a PG resident at District Hospital Pulwama, also announced that doctors in district hospitals would join the agitation from the same date.

Amid the growing protest, several Government Medical Colleges issued communications to resident doctors emphasising the need to maintain academic schedules and patient-care services.

GMC Srinagar's Postgraduate Department of Anatomy directed postgraduate scholars and senior residents to ensure teaching and academic activities were not affected, asking them to conduct scheduled classes, practical sessions and seminars as per timetable and make alternative arrangements if unable to perform duties.

GMC Baramulla issued a circular prohibiting postgraduate students, DNB candidates and senior residents from participating in strikes, referring to undertakings submitted at the time of admission and warning that violations could invite action under applicable rules.

GMC Anantnag, meanwhile, issued a circular referring to the Essential Services Maintenance Act, stating that healthcare services fall under essential services and disruptions affecting public health could invite disciplinary consequences.

The circular also referred to the National Medical Commission's Postgraduate Medical Education Regulations, 2023, stating that leave beyond the permissible limit would lead to an equivalent extension of the training period. It cited the Indian Medical Council (Professional Conduct, Etiquette and Ethics) Regulations, 2002, cautioning that professional misconduct could be referred to the Medical Council. On the demand for stipend enhancement, the administration said the matter fell within the jurisdiction of the Administrative Department.

AIMSA and the Resident Doctors' Association criticised the directives, arguing that the concerns raised by resident doctors required meaningful engagement rather than administrative pressure.

Dr Momin Khan questioned the approach adopted by institutions, maintaining that doctors were seeking fair stipend structures and maternity leave benefits rather than special concessions.

The associations urged the government to initiate dialogue with protesting doctors to prevent further escalation, appealing to the J&K Government, Health and Medical Education Department and Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha to hold discussions and formulate a time-bound mechanism for resolving their demands, while stressing that patients should not suffer amid the agitation.

J&K Approves

including DM, M.Ch. and DNB Super-Specialty courses, as well as senior residents, tutors, registrars and demonstrators, will be entitled to stipends during sanctioned maternity or paternity leave in accordance with applicable government rules.

The order also lays down conditions regarding extension of training and tenure periods.

For students enrolled in academic and super-specialty programmes, the training or tenure period will be extended by a duration equivalent to the maternity or paternity leave availed, subject to the norms of the concerned statutory body.

However, senior residents and tutors not pursuing any academic programme will be eligible for stipends during sanctioned leave within their prescribed tenure, without any extension of their engagement period.

The department said the benefit would be admissible only during the approved tenure of engagement and subject to fulfilment of all applicable conditions.

The All India Medical Students Association (AIMSA) welcomed the decision, while reiterating that enhancement of stipends and parity with other States and Union Territories remained its primary demand.

Dr Abhishek Mittal, Chief Adviser of AIMSA, welcomed the order but said the association's focus remained on the stipend hike, which he described as a major demand of resident doctors.

HC Assigns Additional

additional charge arrangements shall remain in force till further orders.

In a separate order, the High Court has ordered transfers and postings of seven Civil Judges (Junior Division).

Ms Mehak Mehboob, Munsiff Gurez, has been transferred and posted as Munsiff Handwara, vice Ms Meghna Mohan, has been posted as District Mobile Magistrate (T), Anantnag.

Ms Rahila Rashid, Munsiff Anantnag, has been transferred and posted as Munsiff Gurez, while Manzar Muneer has been posted as Munsiff Shangus, vice Ms Bharti Salathia, who has been transferred as Munsiff Anantnag.

Further Altaf Ahmad Mir-II, Munsiff LRP, High Court Wing Srinagar, has been transferred and posted as Munsiff Boniyar, vice Ajay, who has been attached with the Registrar Judicial, High Court Wing Jammu.

Mock Drill Simulates

communication and the execution of contingency response measures.

The exercise aimed at evaluating the readiness of Police and other security agencies to respond promptly and effectively to any exigency or unforeseen terror-related incident through coordinated efforts and seamless cooperation among all participating forces on the ground, he added.

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Youth Must Be Active Partners In Governance, Nation-Building: CM Omar

Addresses IILM University Convocation; urges graduates to uphold integrity, build bridges, create opportunities for others

Observer News Service



NEW DELHI: Chief Minister Omar Abdullah on Saturday called upon the graduating Class of 2026 of IILM University to actively participate in governance, public life, and nation-building, stressing that the country's demographic dividend can translate into lasting prosperity only through responsible leadership and meaningful engagement.

The Chief Minister was addressing the Convocation Ceremony as Chief Guest in New Delhi.

Addressing the graduating students, faculty members, and parents, the Chief Minister said young people must recognise their responsibility in shaping the country's institutions and future. Observing that voting is only the beginning of democratic participation and not its entirety, he said, "Voting is the entry ticket to democracy, not the entirety of the performance," and urged capable, ethical, and educated youth not to remain detached from governance and public affairs.

The Chief Minister highlighted various avenues through which young professionals can contribute to governance, including ethical entrepreneurship, data-driven public policy, grassroots-level engagement, and public service. He stressed that governance is not confined to political offices but requires participation and commitment from every section of society.

Reflecting on his experience of governing Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah emphasised that trust between citizens and the government is fundamental to development and effective administration.

Inviting young graduates to look at Jammu and Kashmir beyond its tourism potential, he encouraged them to engage with the region as investors, educators, and innovators.

"When young professionals from Delhi, Bengaluru, and Mumbai collaborate with young minds from Srinagar and Jammu, we strengthen the fabric of the nation," he said.

The Chief Minister also shared five guiding principles with the graduating students, emphasising the importance of listening before leading, creating opportunities for others, exercising strategic patience, maintaining uncompromising integrity, and nurturing lifelong curiosity. He urged the graduates to view their degrees not merely as academic achievements, but as a responsibility to contribute meaningfully to society and make a positive difference in the lives of others.

During the convocation, IILM University conferred honorary Doctor of Philosophy degrees (Honoris Causa) upon three distinguished personalities—former Vice Chairman and Managing Director of Tata Motors Limited Ravi Kant, eminent educationist Dasho Arun Kapur, and Dr. V. L. Indira Dutt—alongside awarding doctoral degrees, Dr. Kulwant Rai Gold Medals, and certificates of merit to graduating scholars across various disciplines.

Earlier, Vice Chancellor Prof. (Dr.) Nihar Amoncar delivered the Welcome Address, Chancellor P. Dwarakanath formally declared the Convocation open and addressed the gathering, and Chairperson Malvika Rai felicitated the Chief Guest.

ALLEGED ROTTEN MEAT CASE

Health Minister Warns Strict Action Against Those Involved

Sakeena Itoo says licences of erring establishments cancelled, police asked to initiate action; DCs directed to act promptly on complaints

Agencies



ANANTNAG: Health and Medical Education (H&ME) Minister Sakeena Itoo on Saturday warned of strict action against those involved in the rotten meat case, asserting that there would be no compromise on the safety and health of people.

Speaking to reporters in south Kashmir, Itoo, as per KNO, said the government was taking all necessary measures in accordance with the law and the concerned departments had already initiated action against those found involved in violations.

She said the licences of certain establishments had been cancelled and several other measures had also been taken as part of the action initiated by the authorities.

"Whatever action is required at the departmental level is being taken. We have made it clear that there will be no compromise when it comes to the health of people. What we are consuming should not turn out to be poisonous for us, and anyone found involved in such practices will be dealt with strictly," she said.

The minister also acknowledged staff shortages in the Food Safety Department, saying that although the department had been functioning since 2002, it was facing a shortage of manpower, which affected its overall functioning.

Itoo said she recently reviewed the department's performance and functioning and that steps were being taken to address the staffing-related issues and strengthen its enforcement mechanism.

The health minister said the exposure of cases such as the alleged rotten meat scandal was also an indication that the department had been carrying out inspections and making efforts to ensure accountability.

"Such cases are coming to the fore because the department is working and efforts are being made to make the system accountable. We have to ensure that people get safe and quality food items, and there can be no leniency in matters concerning public health," she said.

Regarding the registration of FIRs and arrests of those allegedly involved, the minister said the Food Safety Department had already communicated with the police, as further legal action in these matters fell within the police domain.

"Whatever was required to be done by our department has been done, and we have also written to the police regarding the registration of FIRs and arrests. We hope the police will take necessary action against those involved," she said.

Itoo appealed to the public to remain vigilant and immediately inform the concerned authorities if they noticed the sale of suspicious, spoiled or unsafe food items.

She said Deputy Commissioners (DCs) across districts had also been directed to keep a close watch on such activities and ensure immediate intervention whenever complaints or reports of food safety violations were received.

The administration, she said, had been instructed to respond promptly to such complaints and take necessary action to prevent the sale and distribution of unsafe food products.

"Protecting public health remains a priority," the minister said, adding that strict measures would continue against anyone found compromising food safety norms—(KNO)

CS Dr Sajjan Singh Undertakes First District Visit To Reasi

Observer News Service



JAMMU: In his first visit to a district after assuming charge as Chief Secretary of Jammu & Kashmir, Dr Sajjan Singh Yadav on Saturday visited District Reasi to undertake an on-ground assessment of the developmental scenario and review the progress of key infrastructure projects, with particular focus on Katra, the prominent base camp for pilgrims visiting the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine.

On his visit the Chief Secretary was accompanied by DC, Reasi, Kumar Abhishek; SSP Reasi; SP, Reasi and other senior officers from the District administration.

During the visit, the Chief Secretary took stock of several ongoing and proposed projects aimed at strengthening urban infrastructure, improving connectivity, augmenting public transport facilities and enhancing sanitation arrangements in Katra.

The Chief Secretary also fixed specific timelines for completion of each of the projects and directed the concerned officers to ensure strict adherence to the prescribed deadlines. He instructed the Deputy Commissioner, Reasi, to undertake close and rigorous weekly monitoring of the progress of each project and ensure that any bottlenecks impeding their execution are promptly addressed.

Cautioning the officers against delays and any compromise in the quality of works, Dr Yadav made it clear that failure to meet the stipulated timelines or adhere to prescribed quality standards would invite strict disciplinary action against the officers concerned.

The projects reviewed included the ongoing construction of a Material Recovery Facility (MRF) at Tan Talab by the Katra Municipal Committee, aimed at strengthening scientific solid waste management and ensuring more efficient handling and processing of municipal waste.

He also reviewed the ongoing restoration works on National Highway-44, including slope protection measures being executed by the Public Works Department (PWD), which are critical for ensuring road safety, improving the resilience of this vital highway stretch and facilitating smoother movement of pilgrims and other commuters.

Taking stock of the proposed transport infrastructure, the Chief Secretary reviewed the status of the upcoming Inter-Modal Transport Station at Katra, being taken up by the Urban Development Department, besides the proposed upgradation of the Katra Bus Stand by the PWD. These projects are envisaged to improve passenger convenience, streamline traffic movement and strengthen transport facilities in view of the substantial pilgrim and tourist footfall witnessed by the town throughout the year.

DIPR Represents J&K At 57th International Film Festival In Goa

Observer News Service



GOA: The Department of Information and Public Relations (DIPR), Jammu & Kashmir, is participating in the 57th International Film Festival of India (IFFI) in Goa, representing the region and showcasing its rich cinematic heritage, diverse filming locations, emerging film ecosystem and the initiatives being undertaken by the Government to promote Jammu & Kashmir as a preferred destination for film production.

As part of the ongoing participation, Secretary, Ministry of Information & Broadcasting, Government of India, Chanchal Kumar, today visited the Jammu & Kashmir Stall at IFFI, where he was briefed in detail about the evolving film ecosystem of Jammu & Kashmir and the various initiatives undertaken by the Government to strengthen the film sector and facilitate film production in the region.

During the visit, he was apprised of the immense cinematic potential of Jammu & Kashmir, its breathtaking landscapes, diverse geographical settings, rich cultural heritage and picturesque locations, which offer significant opportunities for filmmakers, production houses and the entertainment industry.

The briefing also highlighted the Government's sustained efforts to promote Jammu & Kashmir as a preferred filming destination through facilitation measures, institutional support and initiatives aimed at creating a conducive environment for filmmakers. Particular emphasis was laid on encouraging film productions, strengthening film-related infrastructure, promoting local talent and creating opportunities for artists, technicians, filmmakers and other professionals associated with the creative industry.

Secretary I&B was also briefed about the potential of leveraging cinema as an effective instrument for tourism promotion, cultural preservation, employment generation and economic development. The discussions highlighted the importance of strengthening collaboration between the Government, film industry stakeholders, production houses and local creative professionals to further expand the region's presence on the national and international cinematic landscape.

The Jammu & Kashmir Stall serves as an important platform to showcase the region's cinematic possibilities, promote its diverse filming destinations and engage with filmmakers, producers, industry representatives and other stakeholders attending the prestigious festival.

Through its participation at IFFI, DIPR is seeking to highlight Jammu & Kashmir's potential beyond its scenic appeal, positioning the region as an emerging hub for film production, creative expression and cinematic enterprise.

The participation also reflects the Government's broader vision of harnessing the film and entertainment industry to promote tourism, generate employment, encourage local talent and create new avenues of economic activity in Jammu & Kashmir.

Young Leaders Conclave 2026 Begins at NIFT

Agencies



BUDGAM: The Young Leaders Conclave 2026, featuring a national-level Youth Parliament, was held at the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), Budgam, on Saturday, providing students and young public speakers with an opportunity to engage with parliamentary procedures, governance and policy-making.

Organised by the Young Generation Forum, the two-day conclave is being held under the theme of re-building India's education-to-employment pathway, focusing on representation, opportunities and national development.

Mir Sahiba, spokesperson for the organising team, said the initiative aims to bring the experience of parliamentary proceedings to Kashmir and provide young people practical exposure to democratic institutions and decision-making processes.

She said the platform would help participants understand how public policies are formulated and how Parliament functions, while encouraging them to use this knowledge to address societal issues.

Emphasising the need for more such platforms in Kashmir, Sahiba said discussions on governance, education, employment and public policy are essential for youth engagement. Sharing her experience as a former winner of a national-level Youth Parliament, she said such opportunities help build confidence and broaden perspectives.

Another organising team member, Bakhtawish, said the event is the first major initiative of the Young Generation Forum, bringing together public speakers from different states and panelists who have represented India at international forums.

She said the Youth Parliament was designed to help students from schools and universities understand the lawmaking process and the functioning of Parliament and legislative assemblies.

Highlighting the importance of youth participation in nation-building, she said young people need adequate exposure and understanding of democratic processes to contribute meaningfully to the country's development.

MLA Budgam Aga Syed Muntazir Mehdi and MLA Bandipora Nizamuddin Bhat also attended the programme and interacted with participants. Their presence underscored the conclave's objective of encouraging youth engagement in democratic processes, governance and nation-building—(KNO)

FDA Continues Enforcement Drive, 127 Inspections Conducted

SRINAGAR: Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), J&K, continued its enforcement drive across all the districts to ensure strict compliance with the provisions of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006, and to safeguard public health.

During the drive, 127 inspections were conducted and 39 food samples were lifted for laboratory analysis. As part of the enforcement action againsts violations of food safety, hygiene and sanitary requirements, the licenses/registrations of seven Food Business Establishments were suspended until further orders and compliance with the deficiencies observed during inspection. These include M/s Jan Sweets, Hazoori Bagh, Srinagar; Bakery Manufacturing Unit of M/s Mughal Darbar, Residency Road, Srinagar; M/s Cottage Inn Restaurant, Baghat, Srinagar; M/s Madina Sunrise Poultry, Baghat, Srinagar; M/s Madina Zaika Biryani, Baghat, Srinagar; M/s Orbit Restaurant, New Pulwama; and M/s NFS Poultry, Mandli, Tehsil Billawar, M/s Delhi Ki Mashoor Biryani, Vijaypur, Samba, and M/s Restaurant NAZ, Vijaypur, Samba.

During the inspections, approximately 35 kg of sweets found stored under temperature-abuse conditions were destroyed on the spot to prevent their sale and consumption. In a separate action, notices were served upon six Food Business Operators engaged in the processing and sale of momos at Hawal, directing them to suspend operations until the observed sanitary and hygienic deficiencies are rectified.

The FDA, J&K, will also undertake a dedicated awareness and handholding programme for the concerned operators to facilitate compliance with prescribed food safety, hygiene and sanitation requirements.

The FDA also initiated legal proceedings against violators, including three cases under Section 56, three cases under Section 58 and three cases compounded under Section 69 of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006. A compounding fee of 3,000 was realized in the cases compounded under the Act.

As part of measures aimed at ensuring transparency, traceability and informed consumer choice, Food Business Operators (FBOs) dealing in non-vegetarian food preparations were directed to prominently display clear and accurate information regarding the type of meat used, including mutton, beef or chicken; whether the meat used is fresh or frozen; and the ingredients used in the preparation of non-vegetarian food items. (Observer News Service)

Rs 29.26 Cr Development Push For Rafiabad

BARAMULLA:: In a major push to strengthen rural infrastructure in Rafiabad constituency, Minister for Agriculture Production, Finance, Mining and Cooperative Departments, Javid Ahmad Dar, on Saturday laid the foundation stones of seven development projects and inaugurated a water supply scheme, involving a cumulative investment of approximately Rs 29.26 crore.

The projects, primarily covering irrigation and drinking water infrastructure, are aimed at improving water availability for agricultural activities, strengthening the rural water supply network and meeting the growing needs of the population.

Among the major irrigation initiatives, Dar laid the foundation stone of a Lift Irrigation Scheme at Reban, Rafiabad, being executed by the Irrigation and Flood Control Division, Baramulla, at an allotted cost of Rs 50.46 lakh. The scheme is expected to improve irrigation potential in the area and provide better access to water for agricultural activities.

He also laid the foundation stone for the improvement of Panzala Zamindara Khul at an allotted cost of Rs 31.57 lakh under the Special Support Scheme (SSY). The project aims to upgrade the existing irrigation channel and facilitate efficient distribution of water to agricultural land.

Another major initiative is the Lift Irrigation Scheme at Harwan, being undertaken under NABARD at an approved cost of Rs 3.66 crore. The project is expected to strengthen irrigation facilities and improve water accessibility for farming households in the area.

The Minister also laid the foundation stone for the restoration and improvement of the Lift Irrigation Scheme at Vijbal, estimated to cost Rs 18.52 lakh under the Special Support Scheme. The project will focus on restoring and upgrading the existing infrastructure to ensure better availability of irrigation water.

Similarly, the restoration and improvement of the Lift Irrigation Scheme at Achabal, involving an allotted cost of Rs 24.44 lakh under SSY, was taken up to improve the existing irrigation infrastructure and strengthen water facilities for local farmers.

A significant component of the development package is the Water Supply Scheme for Watergam Town, for which Dar laid the foundation stone under the UT Capex programme at an approved cost of Rs 15.99 crore.

The scheme will cover all 13 wards of Watergam Town, catering to a present population of 10,598, which is projected to increase to 13,637 by 2041. (Observer News Service)

Charar-I-Sharief Comes Alive With Cultural Celebrations

BUDGAM: On the directions of Director Tourism, Kashmir, Syed Qamar Sajjad, the Directorate of Tourism, Kashmir, organised a vibrant Sufi Festival today at Tourist Bungalow, Charar-i-Sharief, celebrating the Valley's rich spiritual, cultural, and musical heritage.

The festival was graced by Basharat Mahmood, Assistant Director Tourism, Kashmir, who attended the programme and addressed the gathering. In his remarks, he highlighted the enduring role of Sufi traditions in preserving Kashmir's unique cultural identity and spiritual legacy. He further emphasised that such initiatives are



vital for promoting the region's heritage, offering a dedicated platform to local artists, and strengthening the cultural tourism potential of Jammu and Kashmir.

The programme featured soulful Sufi musical performances by local artists, who captivated the audience with traditional Kashmiri compositions and melodious renditions accompanied by indigenous instruments. The performances offered attendees an immersive experience of the timeless musical traditions deeply rooted in Kashmir's Sufi culture.

Drawing enthusiastic participation from both local residents and visitors, the festival fostered a spirited atmosphere of community engagement and celebration. The event underscored the importance of cultural festivals in positioning Kashmir as a premier destination for spiritual and cultural tourism while safeguarding traditional art forms.

The celebration reaffirmed the timeless relevance of Kashmir's Sufi heritage and its universal message of peace, harmony, brotherhood, and communal amity - values that remain central to the Valley's cultural ethos. (Observer News Service)

Canadian Security Chief: World Can No Longer Rely on US Leadership

AP



HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA, (CANADA) – The head of a major international security conference has warned that the United States can no longer be counted on as a predictable leader of the democratic world, urging other countries to step forward as US President Donald Trump's policies strain longstanding alliances.

"Without the United States as a predictable leader, people, institutions and countries are looking for a new course. A North Star," Peter Van Praagh, president of the Halifax International Security Forum, said in opening remarks, on Friday.

"No single country can replace the heft of the United States, but maintaining those ideals are up to us," he said. Now in its 18th year, the Halifax International Security Forum draws about 300 military officials, US lawmakers, diplomats and scholars annually to the Westin Nova Scotian hotel.

Trump renewed his criticism of Canada at the White House on Friday, following a meeting with Prime Minister Mark Carney in China, complaining that Canadians had become emboldened in their dealings with Washington.

"For some reason they feel emboldened. We can't let them feel that way anymore," Trump said.

Trump has repeatedly threatened to make Canada the 51st state and imposed tariffs that have strained relations between the longtime allies. Carney has responded by strengthening ties with Europe, China and other partners to reduce Canada's dependence on the United States.

Before the November 3 US midterm elections, Van Praagh warned in an essay circulated to foreign-policy and security officials that Trump would try to undermine the results if Republicans suffered major losses.

"If these efforts are successful, it will be the end of the United States as we know it," wrote Van Praagh, a former senior adviser to Peter MacKay when MacKay was foreign affairs minister in Conservative Prime Minister Stephen Harper's government.

Van Praagh did not appear alongside Canadian Defense Minister David McGuinty at the customary joint opening news conference Friday, a departure from the forum's longstanding practice.

McGuinty echoed Carney's warning at Davos that the international order is undergoing a fundamental shift.

"Institutions like NATO have always been vital to our collective security. They just can't be our only way of working together. Those days are over," McGuinty said.

The Trump administration barred Pentagon officials from attending the Halifax forum under restrictions imposed in 2025 on participation in think tank events. Previous Republican and Democratic administrations sent senior US military officials, including defense secretaries. A bipartisan congressional delegation is attending this weekend. (AP)

US Court Issues Summons to Doval, Goel in Pannun Case

Press Trust Of India



WASHINGTON- A US court has dispatched summonses to National Security Advisor Ajit Doval and former Research and Analysis Wing Director Samant Goel in connection with a case involving Khalistani separatist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun.

Pannun is wanted by Indian probe agencies on various terror charges.

The clerk of the Southern District Court of New York said that the summonses were sent through FedEx to the Patiala House Court, Tis Hazari Court, and the Dwarka District Court in New Delhi on Friday.

On November 13, the Southern District Court of New York ordered that summonses be issued to Doval and Goel, citing the Hague Convention.

"The court respectfully requests the assistance of receiving Indian courts in effecting service of process upon the defendants in this civil action pending before this court," read an order by Judge Katherine Polk Failla.

Judge Failla cited the Hague Conventions and relevant sections of the Indian Code of Civil Procedure to state that foreign courts can serve summonses on Doval and Goel through Indian courts.

The Indian Code of Civil Procedure permits summonses issued by foreign civil courts designated by notification of the Central Government of India to be transmitted to Indian courts and served as though issued by those courts.

The order states that standard service through India's central authority under the Hague Convention was attempted but rejected. The court then authorised alternative service under Article 19 of the Hague Convention and India's Code of Civil Procedure.

Pannun, legal counsel for the banned organisation Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), has filed the civil lawsuit seeking damages over an alleged attempt on his life.

He has accused Doval of orchestrating a plot involving India's foreign intelligence agency to assassinate him.

Last month, the US court attempted to serve the summonses on Doval and Goel via a diplomatic note issued by the State Department to the Indian Embassy in Washington.

India has rejected Pannun's lawsuit, calling it "fabricated and malicious".

"We reject the fabricated and malicious attacks on our high officials. Also, we reject the frivolous lawsuits. A request for serving of judicial documents in India can only be routed through India's designated central authority, which is the Ministry of Law and Justice," External Affairs Ministry spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on November 10.

Invaders Damaged India's Traditional Skill Infra: PM



Press Trust of India

LUCKNOW: Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday said invaders damaged India's traditional skill infrastructure and targeted its traditional craftsmanship, while the British later introduced an education system focused on producing clerks.

Addressing the fifth National Skill Convocation Ceremony at the Indira Gandhi Pratishthan here, Modi said India's social structure was historically built around skills, but their significance had diminished over the years.

He alleged that invaders had cut off the thumbs of craftsmen to destroy traditional skills and craftsmanship.

The prime minister said students of Industrial Training Institutes (ITIs) should receive the same respect as those studying at Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs).

"Be it IIT or ITI, for me, students are the treasure, strength and future of the country," he said.

Over 30% Police Encounters Involve Minority Accused: Owaisi

Press Trust of India



SAHARANPUR (UP): AIMIM chief Asaduddin Owaisi on Saturday claimed that "35-36 per cent" of police encounters involved minority members and the number goes up to 90 per cent in cases of "half encounters", as he promised an inquiry to probe such incidents if the Samajik Parivartan Morcha (SPM) forms the government.

Addressing a public meeting here, Owaisi alleged discrimination in police action and vowed to have the "injustice" probed.

"Thirty-five to 36 per cent of those in encounters belong to minority communities, while in half encounters, 90 per cent are from minority communities," he claimed.

The figures could not be independently verified.

Owaisi and Nagina MP and Azad Samaj Party (Kanshiram) president Chandra Shekhar Aazad last week announced an alliance – Samajik Parivartan Morcha — for the 2027 Uttar Pradesh Assembly Polls.

"We can make Chandrashekhar Aazad the chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, the country's largest state. If our government is formed, a commission of inquiry will be constituted to investigate injustices against everyone, without any discrimination on the basis of community," he said, with Aazad seated next to him.

"Uttar Pradesh will be governed by the Constitution, not by bulldozers or fear," Owaisi said, appealing to people to support the alliance.

He said the two leaders would turn towards national politics after winning Uttar Pradesh and work to remove Prime Minister Narendra Modi from power.

Owaisi said he had received the blessings of Aazad's mother and shared a meal at his residence.

Earlier, the two leaders met Additional District Magistrate Lavi Tripathi and submitted a memorandum opposing the demolition of a mosque situated in the Saharanpur collectorate premises.

The memorandum claimed that the mosque dated back to before 1911 and was registered with the Uttar Pradesh Sunni Central Waqf Board in Lucknow under Waqf number 451. It alleged that the Waqf Board was not made a party to the proceedings despite being the property's statutory custodian.

The leaders said the matter was pending before a court when the administration demolished the structure on September 5, 2026. They sought a high-level inquiry into the demolition and action against responsible officials.

They also took exception to notices being served to other mosques and madrasas in the district, claiming the practice had created an atmosphere of fear and insecurity among members of the minority community, and demanded a halt to further action pending a review.

Australia Beats England by 3 Wickets

AP

MELBOURNE: Australia beat England by three wickets in a thrilling Twenty20 cricket international Saturday at the Melbourne Cricket Ground, inspired by a match-winning display from Nikhil Chaudhary.

Having taken 2-21 with his leg-spin, Chaudhary made 66 from 38 balls to tee his side up for a chase of 188 — a record at the MCG. India-born Chaudhary arrived in Australia on a tourist visa six years ago and ended up staying because of COVID travel restrictions.

"My parents came over from India last night, so nothing better than getting a player of the match in front of them which is their first game here watching me," Chaudhary said.

Both sides were below strength due to forthcoming Test duties but a home XI dominated by unfamiliar faces, including Chaudhary in his debut on Australian soil, squeezed over the line.

Chaudhary fell with 20 needed off the last two overs but an England attack missing the likes of Jofra Archer, Josh Tongue and Sonny Baker did not have enough. Sam Curran, player of the T20 World Cup final at the MCG four years, attempted to defend 11 off the last over but was unable to hold off Jack Edwards, who won it off the penultimate delivery, to reach 191-7.

